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DELEGATES TO THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP

Washington, D. C., June 17 - 23, 1937

ILLINOIS

<u>Delegate</u>	<u>County</u>
Rose Brewer . . . . .	Bond
Ruth Clapp . . . . .	Edgar
W. Harmon Gilbert . . . . .	Jefferson
John Edward Harber . . . . .	La Salle

Miss Brewer writes:

"I have been enrolled in clothing, foods, home beautification, dairy and poultry projects, foods being my main interest. I have acted as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and song and yell leader some time during the 9 years of my club work and as assistant leader and local leader of the foods club. I am at the present time chairman of the annual luncheon committee for girl champions of Illinois.

"I was a participant in two foods demonstrations, winning first in the county both years and once in the district, thus entering the State contest. I have attended the following: State Camp for 2 years; State club tour for 4 years; as State advanced food champion, won a trip to the National Club Congress in 1934; State Youth Conference 2 years; District Conference 1 year; and National Dairy Show in St. Louis. I have aided in judging county contests and taken part in county and district rallies and meetings.

"My father and mother are both active in club work and I have thus received home encouragement and interest which many do not receive.

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Miss Clapp writes:

"As a 4-H club girl, I have lived a short life of 9 years. These 9 years have included enrollment in the following projects: Clothing, foods, room improvement, lamb project, and the following special projects: Clothing accessories, lounging and sleeping garments, and children's garments.

"I have managed to attend the district contest, not usually as a competitor, but as an interested spectator, seeing the best of what the 4-H girls were doing. Two of these trips were with the demonstration team from our club and one represented the third year clothing of Edgar County. In the same year, I went to the State fair with my project, staying in the club camp while there. The peak of my career came in 1931, when I was sent

to the National Club Congress at Chicago. Besides meeting a great many friends, I remember that week for a great number of other things. One of the most impressive things was seeing and hearing Admiral Byrd.

"Now that my club membership is over, I conclude that learning how to sew, assemble an outfit, etc., is incidental. More important is the responsibility into which one grows. Never would I have dreamed, 9 years ago, that I would be leading the very club of which I was then becoming a part. However, I do feel especially gratified that I can continue in 4-H work and improve in leadership.

"Things worked out for me quite perfectly. It seems the ideal thing for the Washington trip to cap the climax of my 4-H work by coming in the last year of my membership. I feel that I am more than fortunate in receiving this honor. I am certain that others are just as deserving and more so, but the others were not fortunate enough to draw the lucky number out of the lot."

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Mr. Gilbert writes:

"My career as a 4-H member began in 1927, when a poultry club was organized in our county. I was just 9 years old when the club was organized, but it did give me an idea of the good that was to be gained through club work. In the spring of 1928, a calf club was organized in our county. I was one of the 16 charter members of this club.

"My Guernsey heifer came from Wisconsin. One of the boys, for whom we bought a Jersey, decided not to buy her. I liked the heifer very well and finally ended up by buying her myself.

"Fourteen of these sixteen members are still in the dairy business.

"The following year we had another drawing and I bought a third heifer that was just a few days old. This heifer came along nicely and proved to be one of my best animals. I was not entirely satisfied with my first Guernsey heifer. I had also made up my mind by this time that I wanted to keep Guernseys as my breed, so when we had a sale and moved to Cape Girardeau, Mo., I sold my original Guernsey, and my Jersey heifer. We spent the year of 1930 in Missouri, where my father had charge of a herd of 125 head of registered Guernsey cattle. Upon returning from Missouri in 1931, we reorganized our calf club and called it the Jefferson County Guernsey Club because our stock was no longer calves. I had three 2-year-old heifers. It was at this period that I began to reap help from my club work. I was old enough to begin to realize the value of some of the things that were going on about me. A dairy team from our club, of which I was fortunate in being a member, was selected to attend the Illinois Guernsey Field Day, held at the Fred K. Babson's farm at St. Charles, Ill., June 23, 1931. We practiced judging in the adjoining counties and were able to see some of



the outstanding herds in our section of the State. At St. Charles, we saw Mr. Babson's fine herd, and were able to meet the prominent breeders from all over Illinois. On the return trip we stopped at several of the dairies in and about Hinsdale, Ill., and studied their systems of management. Although we were not the winners of the contest, we felt that we got just about as much out of the trip as any one else.

"The following year we organized again, this time as a herd-improvement club. The same dairy team that had gone to St. Charles, was sent to the State judging contest this year. This same year I undertook poultry work, too. I selected white leghorns as the breed and purchased 200 baby chicks. Everything was fine until I saw what a poor market my leghorn cockerels would be sold upon. I decided to dress a few and see if I couldn't sell them at a premium. My plan was successful. Mother helped me, and we dressed the chickens when they weighed from 2 to 3 pounds, cut them up, packed them in a cardboard tray, and wrapped them in a neat package. The first few cockerels were sold in this manner on our milk route. In a short while we had calls for them from all over town. In a short time I had marketed all of my cockerels and had to go out and buy poultry to meet the demand. Our club chose as a demonstration, 'Preparing the poultry carcass for table and market.' I was made a member of that team. The demonstration work that I did that year and the following did me more good than most any other one thing I have done in club work. We practiced the demonstration and gave it before every sort of group - the Ladies Round Dozen Club, the farmers' institute, achievements both local and county, the county and State contest, club rallies in three different counties, the district poultry meeting, and before several other groups. In addition we gave the demonstration for the benefit of our high-school physics instructor, who raises a large number of poultry. They all liked it so well that I had competition the next year, and ever since then the town has been crowded with spring frying chickens. We won first in our district at the State Fair and felt very proud of ourselves. This privilege of staying in club camp at Springfield with hundreds of other 4-H friends is one of the finest things that I know of. For 5 consecutive years I attended the 4-H club camp in Springfield, Ill. Each year I make new friends and renew old acquaintances. When I started to the university this fall, as a freshman, I was very grateful for my acquaintances with 4-H members who are going to school here. It is certainly worth a lot.

We of course had our herd-improvement club going again in 1933. This year I was very fortunate to be chosen one of the State dairy champions and was given a trip to the club congress at Chicago, Ill. This was one of the two most wonderful trips that I have made in my life.

This trip gave us a chance to swap ideas with club boys and girls from all over the United States.

In 1934 I began carrying a health project and have kept it up ever since. This project has made it possible for me to attend the club camp at the State fair for the last 3 years. My placings in the State contest have been second, third, and fourth.

I have acted as an assistant club leader in our club (dairy) for 2 years. My father was leader but was too busy to take any active part in its work. This year I helped organize a garden club in our community. We had 20 boys who had never been in club work before. I acted as president and the meetings were held at my house. We picked a very poor year for a garden club, because the season was such that it was almost impossible to raise garden produce. My garden record book looks very poor this year. It forgot to rain in southern Illinois. I still believe that my garden was very much worth while even this year. I spent 1 year in a home-ground beautification club. This was a very interesting club which has great possibilities. Home-ground beautification can raise the value of a farm quicker than most any other way.

I would not attempt to enumerate the values that I have received from club work. I imagine that there are many that I do not even realize as yet, or may never realize as being developed during the 9 years of my work in connection with 4-H clubs. The most apparent values came through actual project experience, parliamentary-procedure practice, demonstration experience, and the experience of meeting new friends. I believe the friendship value of this program cannot be overestimated. I have helped to conduct the games at three university club tours, attended three recreational schools and the Dixon Springs club camp, gone to National Dairy Show 2 years, and had many other fine trips. I am sure that the contact that I have made with all these club folks, members and leaders, has certainly meant a lot to me.

When I started to the university (1936), I sold a cow for \$70. The money was used to pay my tuition. I have built up enough stock around me to sell some of it if I need to in order to get through school. The thing I want to do is keep improving the stock we have until I get out of school and can really use it.

My sheep project this year was fairly successful. I am getting a start with nice registered Shropshires to carry along with our grade ewes. Since the project has been closed, I have purchased eight more grade sheep. About a week ago the dogs got into the sheep and tore the faces and necks of eight of them until they were in pretty bad shape. All are recovering nicely except my best Shropshire ewe lamb and a grade ewe lamb.

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Mr. Harber writes:

"I have completed pig, sheep, beef, dairy, health, and corn projects. I have fed and exhibited 5 fat barrows, 12 beef calves, 7 gilts, 3 lambs, 3 litters of pigs, and 4 dairy calves. I also have raised 16 acres of corn. As a result of my 4-H club projects I have young and promising enterprises started in hogs, sheep, and dairy cattle. Through my club work I have gained numerous worth while experiences that will live with me throughout my life. I have had the opportunity of making new friends and taking

educational trips. My trip to the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago was easily the most enjoyable week of my life.

"I have participated in six county livestock-judging contests. Twice I have been a member of the first-place team and have attended two State contests. This year in the State contest I was the fourth highest individual. For 4 consecutive years I have been a member of the first-place demonstration team in the county contest. It was my ambition to be a member of a State champion demonstration team. The realization of this ambition occurred this year. In previous years we placed fourth twice and third once in State contests. My experiences on judging and demonstration teams cannot be expressed in dollars and cents. I have attended the State-fair camp for 6 years. This year I was selected as one of the 25 best boy campers.

"I credit 4-H club work for encouraging me to enter college this fall. Next year I will not be able to carry as many projects as in former years because of college entrance, but will be a member of a 4-H club. During my 9 years of club work I have had the privilege of having the same club leader, who is responsible for much of my success as a 4-H club member."

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Extension Service,  
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